

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: JESSE J. WILLIAMS, ERIC J. HANSEN, AND LINDSAY M. ULMAN

For: MANUAL SPRAY CLEANER

Serial No.: 10/604,780

Examiner: Loma M. Douyon

Filed: 08/15/2003

Art Unit: 1744

Docket: 71189-1501

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 OF ERIC J. HANSEN

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Eric J. Hansen declares that:

1. I am a citizen of United States and a resident of Ada, Michigan. I am currently employed by BISSELL Homecare Inc. as Director of Chemical Development. I graduated from Calvin College in 1978 with a degree biology/chemistry. I further studied in advanced chemistry at Aquinas College and Grand Valley State University. I also completed a M.B.A. degree from Western Michigan University in 2000. Since the date of my graduation from Calvin College I have been continuously employed as a chemist/manager, the last 21 years for BISSELL Homecare Inc. I am an inventor named in the above-identified patent application.

2. In my role as Director of Chemical Development at Bissell Homecare, I was responsible for development of a two component aerosol spot cleaner package for BISSELL Homecare. The package included a carpet cleaning composition with an aerosol propellant in one aerosol can and an oxidizing agent, such as hydrogen peroxide, with an aerosol propellant in a second aerosol can. This two component cleaner package was successfully developed under my direction and

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was brought to market in 2003 under the mark OXYKIC, now marketed under the name OXYPRO (both collectively referred to as "OXYKIC spot cleaner") and as Woolite OxyDeep 2X. I have been informed by responsible marketing personnel at BISSELL Homecare that sales of the OXYKIC/OxyDeep 2X spot cleaner have exceeded 6 million units.

3. The BISSELL Homecare OXYKIC/OxyDeep 2X spot cleaner is described and claimed in the above-identified patent application.

4. One of the problems which we encountered in developing this product was the packaging of hydrogen peroxide aerosol composition in an aerosol can. It is widely understood in the aerosol industry that hydrogen peroxide is highly corrosive/reactive, and an aerosol with hydrogen peroxide has not, to my knowledge, been packaged successfully in a metal can. We were aware that a hydrogen peroxide aerosol composition could not be packaged in a steel can, whether lined or unlined, because of the corrosive/reactive nature of hydrogen peroxide. It is my understanding that the linings in steel cans have microscopic pin holes and impurities that are penetrated by the hydrogen peroxide which can attack the metal can, resulting in an increase in pressure within the can and the possible development of leaks.

5. We believed that an aluminum container could possibly be used with the hydrogen peroxide aerosol composition without causing a chemical pressure reaction, provided that it was strong enough to avoid bursting under any pressure that might be developed due to unexpected contamination in the cans. In our evaluation, we tested both lined and unlined aluminum cans and found that these cans would withstand the pressure which could be developed in a worse-case scenario with varying amounts of hydrogen peroxide and aerosol propellant. However, we found, much to our surprise, through testing and actual use in the field, that the hydrogen peroxide composition dislodged the linings of the lined aluminum cans, resulting in disintegration of the lining and clogging of dip tubes in the aerosol cans. Thus, we found that

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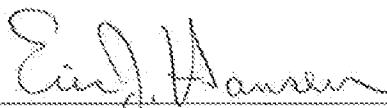
packaging the hydrogen peroxide aerosol composition in lined aluminum cans was unsatisfactory because the dislodged liner clogged the dispensing system, thus rendering the product unusable.

6. Insofar as I am aware, no operational problems have occurred in the unlined aluminum cans with the hydrogen peroxide aerosol compositions used in the OXYKIC/OxyDeep 2X spot cleaner. In my position at BISSELL Homecare, I believe that I would be informed of any problems in the field with the unlined aluminum cans that contain the hydrogen peroxide aerosol compositions.

7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made in information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful thought statements in the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 101 of Title 18 of the United States code and at such willful thought statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Dated: 1-23-2007

By:


Eric J. Hansen

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